

Headlines Himalaya

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No.552

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For the 552nd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 19 news from 10 sources and 16 selected happenings from five countries.

A joint campaign to clean Mount Everest has been initiated by government and non-governmental organizations. A measure to restore and recharge the ponds has been initiated in Taplejung District of Eastern Nepal. Due to insufficient budget, the census of one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has been cancelled for this year. Sixty artificial ponds are being built in Shuklaphanta National Park to support wildlife in dry season. The Kashmiri musk deer (*Moschus cupreus*), an endangered species has been found in Mustang District of Annapurna Conservation Area. A new report from Indian Institute of Technology indicated that amount of usable groundwater has been declined dramatically. An audacity to smuggle bovine animals was foiled by the Jammu Police forces of north-west India. The first ever outbreak of African swine fever has been recorded in the south-eastern part of Tibet. China is making an eco-friendly toilet for climbers this climbing season at the camp. The water quality of Rawal dam of northern Pakistan was found to be satisfactory this year.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

NEPAL

CLEANING MOUNT EVEREST
HUMAN-WILD BOAR CONFLICT IN CENTRAL NEPAL
RESTORATION OF DRIED PONDS
RHINO CENSUS CANCELLED
VEHICLES' EMISSIONS BEYOND PERMITTED LEVEL
FOOD AND WATER CRISIS HITS FAR-WEST
REVOLUTION THROUGH AFFORESTATION
ARTIFICIAL PONDS FOR WILDLIFE
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KASHMIRI MUSK DEER FOUND IN ANNAPURNA

INDIA

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER
ANIMALS RESCUED

CHINA

FIRST EVER OUTBREAK OF SWINE FEVER
INCREASE IN TIBETAN ANTELOPE POPULATION
ECO-FRIENDLY TOILET

PAKISTAN

THE IMPROVED WATER QUALITY AT RAWAL DAM

CLEANING MOUNT EVEREST

A joint campaign to clean Mount Everest has been initiated by government and non-governmental organizations. It has aimed to collect all the garbages including hundreds of dead bodies, cans, plastic wrappers, and human poop from the Mt. Everest. The two groups of Sherpa climbers with at least five members each have been deployed for this mission. The various private business houses and financial institutions along with the World Wildlife Fund have supported financially to accomplish this task.

Apr 8

<https://bit.ly/2UJC8F8>

HUMAN-WILD BOAR CONFLICT IN CENTRAL NEPAL

The local farmers of Panauti of central Nepal have been agitated by wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). Farmers are compelled to leave their land uncultivated due to this problem, and any mechanism has not been initiated to control this problem yet.

Apr 8

<https://bit.ly/2ISdOvd>

RESTORATION OF DRIED PONDS

A measure to restore and recharge the ponds has been initiated in Taplejung District of Eastern Nepal. Artificial recharge is being practiced to revive the ponds. Rural municipality, Tinjure-Milke-Jaljale Conservation Area, and the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal have financially contributed for this project.

Apr 8

<https://bit.ly/2GSc2m>

RHINO CENSUS CANCELLED

Due to insufficient budget, the census of one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has been cancelled for this year. The census should be undertaken every four to five years and last census was in 2015 when 645 rhinos were counted in the country. Several rhinos died this year and more in the last couple of years due to natural reasons. The Director-General of the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, indicated that the census will continue in the coming fiscal year after adequate fund is allocated by the government.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2INymQV>

VEHICLES' EMISSIONS BEYOND PERMITTED LEVEL

According to the test conducted by Metropolitan Traffic Police Division, 66 out of 126 randomly selected vehicles in Nayabazar and 50 of 116 vehicles tested in Kalanki of Kathmandu District had emission beyond permitted level. Similarly, 52 of 102 vehicles tested in Mahalaxmasthan of Lalitpur District failed the test. As per the Vehicle Emission Standards, carbon monoxide emission level for the four-wheeler and two-wheeler registered after 1981 must be below 3 % and 4.5 % and hydrocarbon concentration below 1,000 and 7,800 ppm respectively.

Apr 12

<https://bit.ly/2GNvd07>

FOOD AND WATER CRISIS HITS FAR-WEST

Bajura of western Nepal is facing food and drinking water crisis leading to numerous cases of malnutrition in children. Drought-led scarcity of drinking water has caused local residents to migrate to other places. Some seniors claim that the present drought is one of the worst seen after 1965 drought.

Apr 12 & 13

<https://bit.ly/2J2tYBD>

<https://bit.ly/2J2BvR2>

REVOLUTION THROUGH AFFORESTATION

The Revolution Project, based in Kathmandu has initiated yet again its 'Treevolution Nepal' project that basically fights against climate change. With its success last year, numerous partners and contributors have pledged for the project's growth and expansion this time. The project working in two phases ensures care of planted saplings by individuals themselves.

Apr 12

<https://bit.ly/2J3rH9b>

ARTIFICIAL PONDS FOR WILDLIFE

Sixty artificial ponds are being built in Shuklaphanta National Park to support wildlife in dry season. A total budget of NPR 12 million has been estimated to cost for the project. Solar water pump and/or deep boring will be built to recharge these artificial ponds.

Apr 13

<https://bit.ly/2GXqVrZ>

A NEW SANCTUARY

A wildlife park named Bhanubhakta Wildlife Park is being established in Tanahun District of central Nepal. It is in the process of acquiring lands from local villagers with suitable compensation mechanisms. Many wildlife including one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), and tiger (*Panthera tigris*) will be translocated to this park from other national parks.

Apr 13

<https://bit.ly/2vqVIYN>

KASHMIRI MUSK DEER FOUND IN ANNAPURNA

The Kashmiri musk deer (*Moschus cupreus*), an endangered species has been found in Mustang District of Annapurna Conservation Area. With this, Nepal now harbours four species of musk deer in the country. This species of musk deer previously was said to be found only in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kashmir region of India.

Apr 13

<https://bit.ly/2IPTHOZ>

India-Himalaya

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER

A new report from Indian Institute of Technology indicated that amount of usable groundwater has been declined dramatically from 2005 to 2013 in northern and eastern India. In situ monitoring data of wells over the country, rainfall data, and satellite data confirmed this rapid depletion of groundwater.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2XT1sGJ>

ANIMALS RESCUED

An audacity to smuggle bovine animals was foiled by the Jammu Police forces of north-west India. The smuggling occurred at two different places in Pakistan – India border where police seized the vehicles and arrested accused drivers. A total of 50 animals were rescued and translocated to a safe place.

APR 12

<https://bit.ly/2IPlazN>

<https://bit.ly/2IPT2wA>

China Himalaya

FIRST EVER OUTBREAK OF SWINE FEVER

The first ever outbreak of African swine fever has been recorded in the south-eastern part of Tibet, near Indian border. However, China has reported more than 100 outbreaks since last year in its territory. This fever is not harmful to human, but detrimental to domesticated pigs and caused the death of over 55 pigs since last August.

Apr 8

<https://bit.ly/2Y0uzrX>

<https://bit.ly/2Wfn8MW>

INCREASE IN TIBETAN ANTELOPE POPULATION

A whopping increase of Tibetan antelope (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) population from 20,000 in 1980s to 300,000 this year gives a great success story for conservationists. Poaching of this species has been controlled however, other factors including climate change and natural calamities threaten the survival of the healthy population.

Apr 10

<https://bit.ly/2V5gbRV>

ECO-FRIENDLY TOILET

China is making an eco-friendly toilet for climbers this climbing season at the camp situated on the north face of the Mount Everest. These eco-friendly toilets make easy to collect the human waste from the camps.

Apr 14

<https://bit.ly/2DEuDG3>

Bhutan-Himalaya

Pakistan- Himalaya

THE IMPROVED WATER QUALITY AT RAWAL DAM

The water quality of Rawal dam of northern Pakistan was found to be satisfactory this year due to the cleaning efforts from Water and Sanitation Agency since last year. Water contamination killed a large number of fishes last year.

Apr 13

<https://bit.ly/2ZM7Pxx>